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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,067	08/30/2006	John James Steinfert	MOR3-PT025	5963

3624 7590 01/16/2008
VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C.
UNITED PLAZA, SUITE 1600
30 SOUTH 17TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, MONICA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3644

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/16/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/591,067		STEINFORT, JOHN JAMES	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	MONICA L. WILLIAMS		3644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 August 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/30/2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 51. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "51" has been used to designate both a hole and a tube. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required

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corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to because in Figure 1 bolt (26) is also labeled as hole (29) and also because the nut (27) is not clearly identified. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rossa (4,432,306) in view of Steinfort (5,842,443).

6. In re claim 1, with reference to Figure 1, Rossa discloses an animal lifting and supporting device comprising a frame member (11) having a lifting section (23, 43a) and a pair of hip supports (27a, 27b) arranged to depend from the frame member so as to provide support via the hip bones at the opposite sides of the animal, the hip supports being located intermediate the lifting section, wherein the animal may be raised or supported in cantilever fashion by lifting or supporting the lifting section. Not disclosed is the rear support section.

7. However, with reference to Figure 3 and col.2 lines 29-39, Steinfort discloses a support member being constructed so as to project between the hind legs of an animal to support the underneath of the rear of the animal. The advantage of this is to support the pelvis and chest of the animal. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the lifting device of Rossa by using the support member of Steinfort in place of support (40) in order to support both the pelvis and the chest while also supporting the hips.

8. In re claim 2, with reference to Figures 1 and 3, Steinfort discloses the support member comprising a generally downwardly directed portion (66) and a leg portion (62) extending generally at an angle to the downwardly directed portion.

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9. In re claim 3, with reference to Figure 3 and col.2 lines 29-39, Steinfert discloses that the leg portion is adjustable in height and position therefore it is inherent that the angle can be adjusted to be between 75 degrees and 135 degrees.

10. In re claim 4, with reference to Figure 3 and col.2 lines 29-39, Steinfert discloses the leg portion comprises a support seat (62) located to support a cow in a region between the cow's anus and udder.

11. In re claim 5, with reference to Figure 3 and col.2 lines 29-39, Steinfert discloses support member means adjustment means for adjusting the height of the support seat relative to the frame member.

12. In re claim 6, with reference to Figure 6, Rossa discloses a hinge means (24) pivotally joining an upper portion of each hip support to the frame member.

13. In re claim 7, with reference to Figures 5 and 6, Rossa discloses a lower portion of each hip support comprises a generally trough shaped region, with the bottom of the trough shaped region being shaped so as to underlie and support the hip bone of a cow.

14. In re claim 8, with reference to Figure 6, Rossa discloses the trough shaped region comprises a U-section.

15. In re claim 9, with reference to Figure 6, Rossa discloses the hip supports are held splayed apart on opposite sides of the support frame by a hip adjustment member (28).

16. In re claim 10, with reference to Figure 6 and col.3 lines 45-57, Rossa discloses the hip adjustment member (28) comprises a rod provided with screw threads at

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opposed ends of the rod adapted to screw into threaded sockets attached to each of the hip supports whereby the splay at the hip supports may be adjusted by rotating the rod.

17. In re claim 11, with reference to Figure 6 and col.3 lines 45-57, Rossa discloses the rod (28) is held in a tubular member (30) extending transverse to the frame member and the tubular member is pivotally attached to the frame member.

18. In re claim 12, with reference to Figure 6, Rossa discloses a loop member (24) secured to the lifting section.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MONICA L. WILLIAMS whose telephone number is (571)270-3113. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri 7:30-5:00, Alternate Friday off, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on 571-272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Teri Luu
Examiner
Art Unit 3644

MW 01/15/2008



MICHAEL J. CARONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER